

Voss Mill and Miller's Hse,

Voss Mill
Beaufort vicinity
Franklin County
Missouri

HABS no. MO-1748A

HABS

MO,

36-BEAU.V,

1A -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VOSS MILL

HABS No. MO-1748A-

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MO,
36-BEAU.V.
1A-

Location: Beaufort vicinity, Franklin County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Voss Mill (MO-1748-A) was built ca. 1850s by Dietrich F. Voss. When Drs. Shumard and Linton made their geological survey of Franklin County in September 1853, they visited this mill and commented on it in the First Geological Survey of Missouri. By June 1877, according to a report in a Franklin County paper, the mill was owned by John Julius Noser and was doing a good business. The mill was running three sets of burrs and a wool carding machine. Noser sawed logs at the mill in the 1890s and also had an egg-case factory making cases according to his own patent. Steam power was used in the saw mill and also used for grinding grain when the water was low. The village around the mill was known then as Luther and a post office by that name was opened there in 1872. In 1902, a post office named Noser Mill was established there and this name came to be given to the village. By 1913, the mill was being run by Ed Noser, son of John J. Noser. Present owner is Hugo Rohlfing, Beaufort, Missouri.

The mill is located on the Bourbeuse River. Built of the soft limestone found locally, it is the largest stone mill remaining in the area. Its size, as well as the size of the Miller's House, suggest that this was an important milling center. The original Voss mill dam was made of logs and rocks. A concrete dam was built by Noser in 1910. There have been numerous frame additions made to the original stone mill to serve fishing and camping needs, particularly tavern facilities provided by the present owner.

Miller's house (MO-1748-B) built ca. 1850s by Dietrich F. Voss. Voss emigrated from Hanover, Germany to Franklin Co., Missouri in 1840. The adjoining stone mill, and possibly this house were built before 1853. Sometime before June 1877, Voss moved to Wyandotte, Kansas, where he died on April 3, 1880.

Imposing three and one-half story house. Three story porch extends along rear of the house. One story stone building in the back yard originally used as a school and kitchen. House heated with fireplaces and stoves. Front porch dates from an early period. Few changes in the structure.

The walnut cupboards, filling the space on either side of the chimney breast in one of the lower rooms are essentially German in conception, in effect, and in size. An Anglo-American builder would have made cupboards extending from floor to ceiling. The design of the mantel shown in the photograph is Anglo-American in design in contrast to the German design of the door and stair rail pictured.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Ralph Gregory, Florida, Missouri.

G.C. Swallow, The First and Second Annual Reports of the Geological Survey of Missouri. Jefferson City, 1855.

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PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp, HABS historian. A master list is available in the ~~MO-1800~~ records for MO-1800.